JOHN THWAITES 1785-1839

John and Maria Thwaites were at Weedon living at the Barracks in the early nineteenth century. They buried a daughter Mary Ann, age 1, at the parish church on 13.12.1814. Given the association with Weedon and the use of Skilbeck as a middle name, they are almost certainly the parents of William Thwaites, born Bowbells, London in c1810.

They baptised Thomas Skilbeck, 17.12.1815 and George 30.11.1817 at Weedon, then five further children at Weeedon and Floore Independent Chapel at Weedon Bec.
Margaret 8.10.1820, Edward 3.11.1822, George 16.1.1825, Robert 15.4.1827 and
Josiah 9.5.1830.

In 1815 and 1817 John is described as private, Royal Artillery, and on the marriage of his daughter in 1838, as pensioner, Royal Artillery and tinman.

John Thewaites (sic) army record is on findmypast.co.uk
He enlisted in the 3rd Battery RA on 26.8.1805 age 20, and was discharged to pension on 31.3.1820 age 34 ¾, due to visceral obstruction, after 14 years 275 days service. At that time he is described as height 5'8", brown hair, grey eyes, brown complexion, occupation tin plate worker, born Crothwark (sic) Cumberland.

Of the 3rd Battalion RA only Campbell's Company was at Weedon in 1815 and later, where John's children were baptised. In August 1805 the company was at Norwich, alternating with Colchester over the next 10 years. There were two overseas postings, July-Sept 1809 to Walcheren, Flushing, and Feb 1813 to Lisbon, Alicante, Aug to Tarragona, Jun 1814 to Retuerra, England in July, Colchester in Aug and Weedon in Dec 1814. This was at the time of the Peninsular War. Details of the campaigns the company was involved in can be found online.

So at the time of his marriage, possibly c 1809, the birth of his supposed son William in London c1810, and the birth of his daughter Mary Ann in 1813, John was likely based in Colchester, or possibly for some of the time in Norwich.

I have searched Colchester records without success so far for these events, but have not found many army births at all, so they may have taken place somewhere as yet unpublished, or Maria may have lived elsewhere, perhaps in London. The search continues.

John Thwaites, tinman and Artillery pensioner, died of mortification on 14 July 1839 at Weedon. There is no 1841 census surviving for

Weedon, but in 1851, Maria is in Daventry, a pauper age 66, born Ulenwick (?Alnwick) Northumberland living with her son Robert (Ancestry has indexed her as Marced Shwdetes). Later that year she married Luther Billingham at Weedon. On her second marriage certificate she lists her father as John Pearson, Serjeant in the 69th Regiment of Foot. She died in Daventry in 1855 and was buried in the parish church.

John Thwaites was baptised in Crossthwaite, Cumberland, on 17.11.1785. His parents Thomas Thwaite and Mary Skilbeck were married there on 24.4.1785. Both families can be traced back several generations.

Thomas Thwaite bap Patterdale, Westmorland, 30.4.1759, son of
Thomas Thwaite, bap Watermillock, Westmorland, 27.5.1733, son of
Lancelot Thwaite, bap Watermillock, Westmorland, 17.10.1697, son of
Lancelott Thwaite, bap Crosby Ravensworth, Westmorland, 15.3.1670, son of
James Thwaytes, bap Crosby Ravensworth, Westmorland, 6.9.1635, son of
Lancelott Thwaite, bap Crosby Ravensworth, Westmorland, 9.9.1599, son of
Lancelott Thwaite, bap Crosby Ravensworth, Westmorland, 13.4.1572

Mary Skelbeck, bap Troutbeck, Westmorland, 26.12.1760, daughter of
John Skelbeck, bap Watermillock, Westmorland, 10.10.1719, son of
William Skelbeck, bap Askham, Westmorland, 20.2.1690, son of
Richard Skelbecke